

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 FPC-01

DRC-01 /196 W

----- 088044

R 301527Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9950

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, PO, MZ

SUBJ: SAG VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

REF: STATE 109466 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONSEC BRAND FOURIE MAY 30. THEIR
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DISCUSSION DEALT MOSTLY WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGUESE

TERRITORIES, PRIMARILY MOZAMBIQUE.

2. ASKED HOW SAG VIEWS SITUATION IN PATS AND WHAT OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO SOUTH AFRICA, FOURIE SAID PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 29 APTLY SUMMED UP SAG ATTITUDE (PRETORIA 2274, NOTAL). PARAPHRASING VORSTER, FOURIE SAID: "IT IS OF NO CONCERN TO US WHAT GOVERNMENT IS IN POWER IN ANGOLA OR IN MOZAMBIQUE. OUR HOPE IS THAT IT WILL BE STABLE AND HAVE LAW AND ORDER." FOURIE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT FOR SUCH CONDITIONS TO EXIST, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR TERRITORY TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC PROGRESS TO ENABLE IT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE.

3. THIS LED HIM TO EXPLAIN WHY SAG DOES NOT, AT THIS POINT, BELIEVE THAT WHOEVER COMES TO POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE (HE LATER SAID THAT BLACK GOVERNMENTS ARE INEVITABLE WITHIN A YEAR OR TWO AT MOST) COULD IGNORE THE SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS THAT IT WOULD ENJOY THROUGH A CONTINUED FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. "WE WOULD LIKE," HE SAID, "TO COOPERATE WITH WHATEVER GOVERNMENT IS IN POWER. ECONOMIC COOPERATION WILL BE OF TWO-WAY BENEFIT."

4. HE DESCRIBED SEVERAL AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WHICH DIRECTLY BENEFIT MOZAMBIQUE AND WHICH, HE SAID, WERE OF FAR MORE IMPORTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE THAN TO SA.

A. THE PORT OF LOURENCO MARQUES SERVES LARGELY TO HANDLE SHIPPING TO AND FROM SOUTH AFRICA. MOST OF PORT'S EARNINGS ARE DERIVED FROM SA TRADE. IN AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA UNDERTOOK TO DIVERT THROUGH LM A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF GOODS PRODUCED IN JOHANNESBURG, EVEN THOUGH IN RECENT YEARS THIS HAS NOT BEEN ALL THAT BENEFICIAL TO SA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LOSS OF LM AS A PORT WOULD CAUSE SA PROBLEMS FOR A WHILE, BUT THAT IF THIS DID OCCUR HE FELT SA COULD GET BY UNTIL 1975-76 WHEN THE NEW PORTS OF RICHARDS BAY AND SALDANA WOULD BE OPERATIVE.

B. THE RAIL LINE FROM LM TO KOMATIPOORT ALSO IS USED PRIMARILY FOR SA TRADE.

C. IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, CABORA BASSA WILL PRODUCE 685 MEGAWATTS (EVENTUALLY 2,000 MEGAWATTS). MOZAMBIQUE ITSELF CAN CONSUME ONLY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT, OR 45 MW, OF THIS POWER. SA WILL TAKE REST OF OUTPUT.

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D. ANNUAL TRADE BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND SA AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 35 MILLION RAND.

E. TOURISM IS OF IMPORTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMY AND MOST TOURISTS THERE COME FROM SA.

F. SA SUPPLIES MOZAMBIQUE WITH EMPLOYMENT FOR THOUSANDS OF WORKERS. FOURIE SAID THAT A ROUGH GUESS OF MONEY REMITTED HOME BY MOZAMBICAN MINERS ALONE AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 20 MILLION RAND. THIS IS SENT TO MOZAMBIQUE IN GOLD PURCHASED HERE AT R42.50

PER OUNCE, AND IT, OF COURSE, WORTH MUCH MORE WHEN RESOLD ON WORLD MARKET.

5. FOURIE SAID THAT CLEARLY THE GREATER PORTION OF MOZAMBIQUE'S TOTAL INCOME IS DERIVED FROM SA. HE SAID, "ANY GOVERNMENT WITH ANY SENSE MUST BECOME FULLY AWARE OF THIS FACT OF LIFE."

6. HE STRESSED THAT CABORA BASSA'S IMPORTANCE TO SA HAS BEEN EXAGGERATED. SAG'S POLICY IS "NEVER TO TAKE MORE THAN EIGHT PER CENT OF ITS ELECTRICAL POWER FROM ANY OUTSIDE SOURCE." BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT FUTURE OF MOZAMBIQUE, SOUTH AFRICA'S ESCOM (ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMMISSION) WILL KEEP ON STANDBY CERTAIN POWER STATIONS IT HAD PLANNED TO SCRAP.

7. AMBASSADOR ASKED HOW SA REGARDS POSSIBLE THREAT TO ITS SECURITY IN VIEW OF CHANGING SCENE NORTH OF ITS BORDERS. FOURIE REPLIED, "WE LOOK FORWARD TO A GOVERNMENT THAT WILL NOT ACT RASHLY," BUT IF ANYONE TRIED TO MAKE INCURSIONS INTO SA, "THEY WOULD BE HAMMERED."

8. WHEN QUERIED WHETHER THERE WERE PRESSURES FROM WITHIN SAG TO MAKE PREVENTIVE MILITARY STRIKES TO FORESTALL ANY MOVES IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH COULD SOMEHOW THREATEN SOUTH AFRICA'S SECURITY, FOURIE SAID THERE WERE NOT RPT NOT. HE INSISTED THAT VORSTER HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT SA HAD AND WOULD REACT CALMY, WITHOUT PANIC, TO CHANGING SITUATION IN PATS. FOURIE REITERATED THAT VORSTER'S STATEMENT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE EXPLICIT ON THIS. SA HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERVENING. FOURIE ADDED: "WHY SHOULD WE, FOR EXAMPLE, INTERVENE TO PROTECT CABORA BASSA? IT IS NOT WORTH THAT MUCH TO US."

9. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA WAS CONSIDERING AUGMENTING ITS SECURITY FORCES IN RHODESIA, FOURIE SAID: "I

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DON'T KNOW. I DON'T THINK SO. THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION IN RHODESIA WILL BE SOME KIND OF SETTLEMENT." WHEN PRESSED FURTHER ON WHAT SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT DO IF DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE TOOK A TURN THAT WOULD OBVIOUSLY SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE RHODESIA'S WHITE REGIME, FOURIE STATED, "I AM IN NO POSITION TO ANSWER."

10. FOURIE WOULD NOT HAZARD A PREDICTION AS TO WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE IN POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE AND IN ANGOLA. HE SAID THIS WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENED IN PORTUGAL AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES PORTUGAL RELINQUISHED CONTROL IN PATS. HE SAID SITUATION IN PORTUGAL SO CONFUSED IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHAT MIGHT EVENTUATE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, SOME CONCERN THAT SPINOLA NOT IN FIRM CONTROL AND SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT RPT NOT SEEM LIKELY NOW, POSSIBILITY OF A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF PORTUGAL CANNOT BE DISMISSED. HOWEVER, HE SAID,

"IF THE SPINOLA GOVERNMENT CAN SHOW THAT IT WILL REMAIN IN
POWER, IT THEN CAN PLAY A GUIDING ROLE IN DETERMINING HOW THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORIES IS ACHIEVED. THIS IS SOUTH
AFRICA'S HOPE."
HURD

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